

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) An improved integrated method for preparing mechanically defibered bleached wood pulp comprising:

- (a) mechanically defibering wood chips to form wood pulp,
- (b) bleaching the wood pulp with peroxide under alkaline conditions in the presence of an alkali metal aluminate,
- (c) washing the resulting bleached wood pulp with water to form a spent liquor,
- (d) concentrating the spent liquor,
- (e) combusting the concentrated spent liquor to form an ash containing alkali metal aluminate in the absence of the formation of a melt with the discharge of hot flue gases,
- (f) dissolving said ash containing alkali metal aluminate in water,
- (g) adding said water containing said dissolved alkali metal aluminate to said defibered wood pulp prior to said step (b) so that said alkali metal aluminate derived from said ash contributes to said alkaline bleaching conditions of step (b).

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said alkali metal aluminate is sodium aluminate.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein said alkaline conditions in said bleaching step (b) are partially obtained by impregnating said wood chips to be mechanically defibered with an aqueous solution of sodium aluminate and passing the wood pulp after the mechanical defiberizing step (a) to said bleaching step (b).

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the impregnation of said wood chips to be mechanically defibered at least partially utilizes the aqueous solution of sodium aluminate of step (f).

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said bleaching step (b) is carried out at a temperature of about 20 to 150°C.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the pH of said bleaching step (b) is adjusted to a value of about 9.5 to 12.5.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the concentrated spent liquor of step (d) is combusted in step (e) at a temperature of 500 to 1,100°C.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the spent liquor of step (c) is concentrated in step (d) to a solids content of at least about 30 percent.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the spent liquor of step (c) is concentrated with the aid of hot flue gases that are discharged from combusting step (e).

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein said bleaching step (b) is carried out at a temperature of about 20 to 150°C.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 23, wherein said bleaching step (b) is carried out at a temperature of about 20 to 150°C.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said bleaching step (b) is carried out at a temperature of about 50 to 100°C.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein said bleaching step (b) is carried out at a temperature of about 50 to 100°C.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the pH of said bleaching step (b) is adjusted to a value of about 9.5 to 12.5.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the pH of said bleaching step (b) is adjusted to a value of about 9.5 to 12.5.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the pH of said bleaching step (b) is adjusted to a value of about 10 to 12.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the pH of said bleaching step (b) is adjusted to a value of about 10 to 12.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the spent liquor of step (d) is combusted in step (e) at a temperature of 500 to 1,100°C.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the spent liquor of step (c) is concentrated in step (d) to a solids content of about 35 to 45 percent.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the spent liquor of step (c) is concentrated in step (d) to a solids content of about 35 to 45 percent.